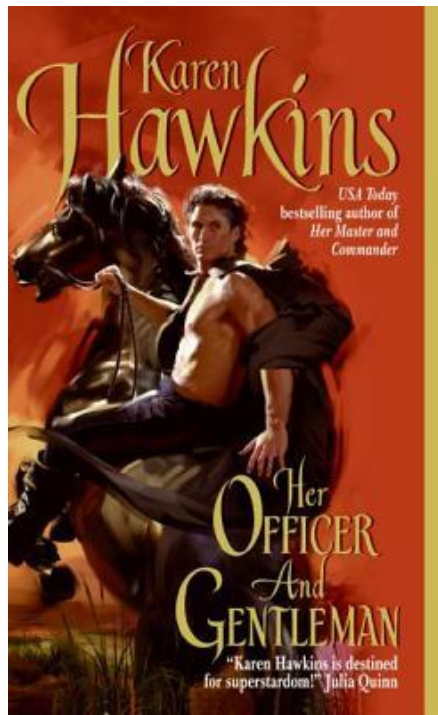




Her Officer and Gentleman

Karen Hawkins

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Her Officer and Gentleman Karen Hawkins

No ordinary highwayman...

A mere whisper of the name "Gentleman James" sends chills throughout the ton (and thrills the ladies who have heard rumors of his amorous exploits). But the dashing brigand never dreamed that the passing of the father he never knew would leave him with a title, a fortune...and a mission.

No predictable lady...

Considered unmarriedable at twenty-five, Lady Elizabeth has the perfect life, happily snuggled among her beloved books while caring for her curmudgeonly grandfather. Or so she thinks until she meets Christian Llevanth, the dark and mysterious Viscount Westerville, and discovers the delicious ache of desire. Elizabeth finds herself longing for more -- more romance, more excitement, and definitely more passion. But when does "more" become "too much"?

Her Officer and Gentleman Details

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Author : Karen Hawkins

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From Reader Review Her Officer and Gentleman for online ebook

Jeanne says

Once I got used to the author's slightly coarse, exaggerated sense of humour, I soon found myself happily and unexpectedly caught in the plot. In spite of a taste for caricature, I must say Hawkins paints quite a credible and successful picture of Regency times. If you except the more modern splashes of romance (did Regency people really use the word "sexy"?), some scenes sounded delightfully like Jane Austen, or at least like an appreciative imitation of her, minus Austen's incomparable insightfulness. Thus, while Ms. Hawkins cannot abide anything less than a hard-headed, strong-willed and clever lady for a heroine, which occasionally accounts for some anachronisms, she clearly enjoys writing Regency for more than gowns, balls, carriages and aristocracy. Her sharp, teasing pen is constantly on the lookout for ridicule, hypocrisy, gossip and extravagance.

"Mrs. Thistle-Bridgeton, you are an arbiter of taste. You have created a picture of loveliness that will stay with me for days to come."

However, if the Regency charm is there, I was wishing for more, yet more there wasn't much of. Let's have a look at the title. It seems to refer to the hero, right? But though the hero is a former highwayman, known under the nickname of Gentleman James, he was never an officer. Well, an ex-highwayman doesn't need to be an officer on top, you say; it's exciting enough. Sadly, in the whole of *Her Officer and Gentleman*, Christian (the hero's real name) never takes up his illegal activities again. I was really anticipating some action and thrill, especially when the heroine is introduced as a woman who detests boring things and yearns for some adventure. Well, crash! There went my hopes. Apparently Lady Elizabeth will have to be satisfied with merely *feeling* that her husband is the adventurous and dangerous type, because he's definitely put his shady past behind him...

"Did you hear me?"

"Yes, my lord. You said I was right and you were wrong and if you could undo it, you would."

Christian frowned. "I didn't say that, exactly."

"Perhaps it was just my imagination. I sometimes daydream, you know."

Not that there isn't the tiniest bit of a plot besides the romance. There always is, if only to make the love story more complicated and dramatic. Alas, mystery cannot be said to be Ms. Hawkins's specialty, as her mystery isn't very mysterious at all. I guessed who the bad guy was at the first hint we were given, along with all the supposed red herrings. We have a nice climactic scene near the end, which allows the author to tie all her loose ends in a very convenient and proper way, but all in all it feels more like a narrative device than anything interesting unto itself. Probably the main reason why you wouldn't read such a book twice, despite it being undoubtedly pleasant and entertaining.

Amarilli Settantatre says

Ci sono molte ricette di lucido per stivali, alcune delle quali prevedono ingredienti improbabili, come estratto di sangue di pipistrello o polvere di cadavere. La mia è più semplice: una parte di cera di candela e due parti di champagne. E' raro che il miscuglio, riscaldato alla giusta temperatura e

strofinato con vigore, non restituisca uno stivale eccezionalmente lustrato. E al maggiordomo viene risparmiata l'incombenza di recuperare un cadavere polveroso adatto alla bisogna. Ci sono volte in cui la semplicità sceglie per noi.

R.R. Reeves, Manuale del perfetto maggiordomo

Mah. A volte è tanto imbarazzante leggere un libro, quanto poi riuscire a formulare un giudizio oggettivo e ponderato.

In questo caso devo dire che non mi è piaciuto proprio nulla e ho fatto una faticaccia a terminarlo.

Senza fare spoiler, posso solo dire che vi è un nobile che gioca a fare il bandito galante, ma che punta - ovvio- a vendicare la madre, vittima a suo tempo di un duca malvagio.

Senonchè non ha nulla dell'eroe ed è abbastanza una mezza calzetta, tanto che finisce per essere aiutato e indirizzato ogni volta dal ben più scaltro maggiordomo.

La storia d'amore non ha nè capo nè coda, il duca malvagio è forse il più equilibrato tra tutti, e la soluzione del mistero non è una sorpresa per nessuno.

(Se mai lo leggerete, vi sfido a non indovinare il colpevole con una fastidiosa preveggenza...).

In buona sostanza, alla fine si salva davvero soltanto il maggiordomo (con le sue note di colore a inizio capitolo).

Un gentiluomo non antepone mai le proprie esigenze a quelle di una lady. A meno che, naturalmente, l'esigenza non sia quella della cena. E' triste da dire, ma tutti gli uomini sono villani quando c'è di mezzo la carne di manzo.

Natalie says

First Karen Hawkins and it was quite enjoyable! I found it in a library when I was trying to kill time waiting for a screening of A United Kingdom and arrived 3 hours before because I got the wrong time. Elizabeth was a lovely heroine, the kind of Meg Ryan 90s romantic comedy heroine, very lively and funny and charming but not over the top. Of course, the book also totally won me over because Elizabeth and Christian were forced into an engagement when he was making out with her on a billiards table.

jenjn79 says

Her Officer and Gentleman is the sequel to Her Master and Commander. I found this one to be much more engaging and interesting than the first one. I didn't love it, but it was an easier read than HMaC and had more meat to the story.

Even though I didn't think HMaC was all that wonderful of a book, I was looking forward to Christian's story. His introduction in HMaC left me wanting to know more about him, and also wanting to know the resolution of what had happened to him and his brother Tristan's mother. Christian is a great character...so dark and brooding.

Story-line wise, I liked how everything worked out. The plot was so much more interesting than HMaC, which seemed to have no direction and point and bored me at times. I wasn't really bored with HOaG. Hawkins creates a nice, plausible plot that reads well. It's not full of twists and suspense, but it fits the story fairly well.

Romance wise...well, for a historical, I thought it was lacking a bit in the sex-scenes area. Which is tacky to say, probably. But usually in historicals you get more than a little of the good stuff (*G*). In this book, though, you get only one full sex scene. And I will say that I thought it was unnecessary for Hawkins to put off the intimacy for so long in the book. Strictly on a romance sense, I enjoyed Christian and Elizabeth. They were nice counterparts.

Overall, I liked HOaG much more than HMaC. It was just a much more well-rounded story with more purpose and meat. I didn't love the book, but I didn't mind reading it and mostly enjoyed it.

Interesting sidenote - from the other reviews of HOaG I read, it seems as though those who liked HMaC hated HOaG, and those who liked HOaG hated HMaC. Just an interesting contrast.

Ivana says

Bir hikayeye de ortadan daml?yarak bitirmenin sevincini ya??yorum desem yalan olmaz.Bir ?ey fark ettim ki serilere ortadan ba?l?y?nca daha zevkli oluyormu? :D

Hikayemiz bizim ha?in,haydut kontumuzun annesinin intikam?n? almak i?in yapt??? plana bir masumu kar??t?rmas?yla ba?l?yor :D Burda masum da Leydimiz Elizabeth oluyor.Eh sonu?ta intikam i?in kullanmak istedi?i kad?na kar?? olan duygular?yla sava??r amma ve lakin ba?aramaz. Leydimiz Elizabethe de masum dedi?ime aldanmay?n ?mr?m boyunca bir historicalde onun kadar zeki kad?n karaktere rastlad?m m? ??? Asl?nda d?r?st cevap vericek olursak hat?rlam?yorum :D

Tabii ki de intikam plan?n? anlar bizim zeka k?p? Elizabeth ve birlikte Christian?n annesinin ?l?m?n?n s?rr?n? ??zmeyi kararla?t?r?rlar. Ama aralar?ndaki tutkulu ?ekim sayesinde uygunsuz bir ?ekilde bas?larak mecburi bir evlilik yolunda ilerlemeye zorlan?rlar :D Tabii ilk ?nceleri de ikisi de bu evlilik konusunu her ne kadar zoraki olarak de?erlendirseler de kitab?n sonunda ortaya ??kan ger?ekler bir birilerine kar?? olan a?klarn? s?nayacak t?rde olur ve bizimkiler mutlu sona kavu?urlar ;)

P.S esas o?lan?m?z?n isminin Christian olmas?n? bir t?rl? beyin h?crelerim kabul edemedi :D Neden diye sorsas?z her Christian ad?n? okudu?umda akl?ma gelen bizim dominant CEO-muz Christian Grey oldu :D Christian isminin ondan ba?kas?n?n ta??mas?n? kabul edemiyorum :D

Kahyaya bay?ld?m.Revees neredeyse sana a??k oldum adam?m :D :D ?ok g?zel bir karakterdi ve hikayedeki g?lme sebebimdi diye bilirim...

Tavsiyye olunur g?zel bir hikayeydi ;)

Pamela says

Rated 4.5

Kerry says

Wonderful story about two stubborn people who end up at the wrong end of that streak. What gives it that

special something is the lively family members, a butler and a deadly secret.

Ashley Clark says

She loses her virginity against a door. The only character that makes this book bearable was the butler, Reeves, who is awesome. But for the most part, it was poorly written drivel.

??NaR De?iRmeNci ? says

A?k?na Talibim

Just Ask Reeves Serisi 2

Karen Hawkins

Hmmm güzeldi hatta konusu oldukça ilgi çekiciydi. Bigün ba? a?r?s? ve göz a?r?s? ile zor okudum ama merak uyand?ran taraf? ile kendine çekti

annesini kaybeden bir çocuk babas?n?n onlara her zaman gelece?ini dü?ünür fakat hiç bir zaman gelmez ölmeden önce onlara b?rakt??? miras ile bir Kahya bırak?r

her keze böyle bir Kahya laz?m bence harikayd?

Annesi hiç hak etmedi?i suçlamalar ile hapse at?l?r ve orada narin vücudu dayanamaz ve ölür. Cristian ise onun ölümünün arkas?nda ki aileyi bulmay? kafas?na koyar ve onlar?n biricik torunu ile bunu yapacakt?r tabiki i?ler onu gördü?ü an fark? hale bürünür

k?z?m?z oldukça zeki ve tam istedi?im gibiydi

Ve kitapta öyle gerçekten iyiydi

Ve böylelikle yazar?n ç?km?? tüm kitaplar? bitmi? oldu?

Theresa says

liked the book but don't get how the title relates to anything

Hanife says

Kitaba ba?lamam uzun sürsede çabuk bitirdim ve tad? dama??mda kald?. Duygusal???, espirituelli?i, anlat?m ?ekli, karakterleri k?sacas? her?eyi gayet güzeldi. Zevk alarak okudu?um romanlardan biri aras?na girdi. Olaylar Westerville vikontu Christian'?n annesinin ölümüne Massiangale dükünün sebep olmas?na dair kan?tlar toplamas?yla ba?l?yor. Dük ün torunu Elizabeth i ba?tan ç?kar?p bilgi s?zd?rma pe?indeyken k?z?n çekimine fazlaca kap?l?yor ve bu çekim k?z?n ?öhretini lekeleyip planlar?n? altüst etme derecesine getiriyor. Espirili dialoglarla süslenmi? bu kitab? zevkle okucaks?n?z...

Kitapta çok güldü?üm bir yer vard? payla?mak istedim;

"Ah ne olur aç?klama yapmay?n. Kekeleyeniz çok ho?uma gidiyor."

"Nas?l böyle bir ?ey söylersiniz?"dedi Beth

Adam s?r?tt?. "Çünkü dudaklar?n?z?n sesleri ç?kar?rken büzülmesine bay?l?yorum. Kekelemeniz tamamen ba?tan ç?kar?c?. Sorunlu dudaklar?n?z? öpmem için bir davet sanki."

"E?er kekelemenin bir öpücük daveti oldu?unu dü?ünüyorsan?z, neyse ki ge?irmiyorum, çünkü onuda yata??ma bir davet olarak dü?ünebilirsiniz."

??te koptu?um an :D K?z deh?et zeki adam?n niyetini ikinci görü?ünde anl?yor resmen =)))
Kahraman?m?zda eski bir e?k?ya :D Baya insan soymu? eskiden. Takma ismide Centilmen James :D çok canlar yakm?? bu u?urda =))) Yaln?z soka?a dü?me olaylar? felan var adam?n ama yazar pek de?inmemi? oralarda fazla bir ac?tasyon yok ama buda beni ilk kitapta heralde yeterince yapt??? için ikinci kitapta o kadar de?inmedi?i dü?üncesine itti. Tabi birinci kitab? bilemiyoruz ?imdilik =)) Gerçi çok yak?nda ç?k?cakm?? haberleri geldii =)) Mutlaka okuyunn ;)

Savi says

Okay so I usually don't like books that just drag along, I mean lets face it we women read romance books like men watch porn. All I was waiting for was the sex, kiss, touch or anything. The beginning dwindled off to other subjects, as if I really cared who killed who. All I cared for was the main couple, especially the hunky hero. Most of the time I despise a book for not letting the couple do their deed in the first half of the book because we all know that's when the story really starts. But in this case I shall forgive Miss. Hawkins since the sex scene was so incredible. Perhaps it was so amazing that she couldn't put another one like it to match since after that I wasn't satisfied with the couple at all. Maybe 2 more scenes like that, plus less focus on the other plot. Let's stop pretending this is a mystery book and realize it's suppose to be romantic.

Lover of Romance says

Lady Elizabeth, at twenty five years of age, has yet to find herself a husband. Beth is content to live in the country with her grandfather, and among her roses and beloved books. Then her grandfather insists that she has a season in London, so she can find a husband. Beth doesn't want a husband, knowing that the only reason that she has any suitors is because of her large dowry that her grandfather has bestowed upon her, but then she meets Christian Llevanth, the Viscount Westerville, where rumors fly about him. Christian intrigues her, and Beth finds herself looking forward to their meets, and despite the fact that she isn't looking for a husband, she longs for his kisses, that throw all of her logic and reason out of the window. But there is so much more to Christian than meets the eye, especially when she figures out that he is looking into her grandfather, and knows that she must find out what he wants to know so badly about her grandfather, but will it destroy what they feel for one another? Her Officer And Gentleman is the sequel to Her Master and Commander, and I have yet to read the first one, but it turns out that I didn't need to, although after reading this one, that's next on my list for Karen Hawkins, that for sure. Her Officer and Gentleman, takes place in England, the Regency period. This is part of a duo series called "Just Ask Reeves" Reeves is their butler, and serves both brothers, which is what these two books are about. I have to be honest I did enjoy reading this book, but it took a little while to get into, and I didn't really get into it, until almost halfway through the book. I have always loved reading from Karen Hawkins, however this is probably one of my least favorite of hers, even though it was a great historical romance, and had some good attributes about it, but it just didn't click all the way for me. But what I did love about this story is the mystery and romance throughout the

story. I will say that I did cry toward the end though, definitely had a emotional tie to the story, that really moved me, I just love the tender romantic endings.

Lassarina Aoibhell says

The basic setup for this novel is that our hero, Christian, who is formerly a highwayman, seeks revenge for his mother's death. He does this by pursuing Beth, the granddaughter of the man he believes responsible, so that he can gain entree to the family and find his conclusive proof.

This story ended up exceeding my expectations for it - there was no awkward dancing around lies and pretending not to notice weird things. As soon as Beth noticed that Christian wasn't really after her, he fessed up. This refreshing honesty continued throughout the book. I really liked the way they approached each other, the respect they had for each other's abilities, Beth's creative solution to "I have a massive fortune and don't want to marry but am required to Perform a Season," and the sexytimes were lovely.

What I didn't like was the motivation for the antagonist. I got the hints as to who was responsible quite early on, and I was really hoping for a clever and unique reason why the antagonist had acted as they did, but I feel rather let down by the eventual explanation. I think it used a convenient and easy crutch rather than go for more character development. Maybe this is a shortcoming of the genre, but I thought that as well-rounded and well-drawn as everyone else was, this stood out as oddly slapped-together.

Still, it was a really enjoyable read and the main characters were incredibly engaging, as were most of the side characters. I would recommend it overall.

Romanticamente Fantasy says

«Ho atteso più di vent'anni per riparare ai torti subiti da mia madre. In un modo o nell'altro, avrò la mia vendetta» Reeves sospira ancora una volta. «Sì, milord. Lo vedo che siete molto determinato. Devo dire, conoscendo la professione che avete appena abbandonato, che il disprezzo che nutrite per la legge mi appare sconcertante. » «Non ho mai ucciso nessuno» «Questa è sempre una bella frase, in bocca al proprio datore di lavoro. Vi prego di non arrabbiarvi se vi chiederò di ripeterla altre volte. La trovo rassicurante»

“Il visconte innamorato” è il secondo libro della duologia Just Ask Reeves, in cui un'impareggiabile maggiordomo, per esaudire le ultime volontà del Conte di Rochester, deve ritrovare i due gemelli che il nobile ha avuto da una delle sue amanti e che, con abile sotterfugio il Conte è riuscito a legittimare. I due giovani, però, dovranno sottostare a particolari clausole per entrare in possesso del grande patrimonio. In “Capitano del mio cuore” Tristan, essendosi sposato con una donna coinvolta in un grosso scandalo, ha sì avuto il titolo di Conte, ma non l'accesso al denaro del padre. Ed è Christian, ora, che si dovrà dimostrare un perfetto gentiluomo per poter ottenere il denaro, passando l'esame della strana commissione voluta dal padre, che dovrà stabilire se la lucentezza dei suoi stivali o la perfetta piega della sua cravatta siano degni di un “vero gentiluomo”. Christian fino al momento della sua legittimazione era un noto bandito di strada “Gentlemen Jack”, conosciuto per essere solito derubare i nobili nelle loro carrozze e strappare baci alle vittime delle sue rapine. Ora, lasciati gli appostamenti notturni, Christian ha un solo obiettivo: vendicare la morte di sua madre, accusata ingiustamente di tradimento e morta in carcere. Tutte le indagini fatte

conducono al Duca di Massingale, un uomo di ottantun anni che vive solo con la nuora e la nipote, lontano dal ton. L'unica strada per poter essere invitato nella sua tenuta è far finta di corteggiare la nipote. Ma Elizabeth non è solo bella è anche molto perspicace, e capisce immediatamente che in questo corteggiamento c'è qualcosa di strano. Nonostante i suoi sospetti però, fra lei e Christian è subito passione. Ma riuscirà a sopravvivere alla scoperta della verità?

Pur con alcune piccole pecche, questo è un romanzo che mi è piaciuto leggere; sicuramente un capitolo superiore, sia per trama che per personaggi, al primo della serie. Un bandito redento, segreti celati in nome dell'onore, un amore che riesce a farsi largo in un cuore dedito alla vendetta e un adorabile maggiordomo. Tutti questi elementi fanno di questo libro una lettura piacevole che ho molto apprezzato. Ma una nota bisogna farla: in un'epoca in cui, specie nella nobiltà, il formalismo è un modo di vivere imprescindibile, dubito fortemente che un Duca lanci tazze contro le pareti, dopo aver letto sul giornale notizie che lo disturbino, e che appelli sua nipote in questo modo:

«Ma piantala di “Miliordare” come un'allocca. E siediti. »

Oppure, avere questo tipo di conversazione.

«Non cercare di cavartela con una battuta, signorina Tumistufi! Dovevamo presentarti in società per il tuo diciassettesimo compleanno, ma tuo zio Redmond ha avuto la pessima idea di morire di qualche stupida malattia infantile. Poi è stato il turno di tua cugina Gertrude e ci siamo dovuti mettere in lutto anche per lei! »
«Che grandi maleducati. Li detesto entrambi, davvero. »

Va da sé che nell'Inghilterra nobile dei primi anni del 1800, questo fosse un discorso impossibile. Ma nonostante questo, leggerlo mi ha divertito. Come coppia mi sono piaciuti, e la scrittura della Hawkins è sempre una garanzia.

Lucia63 - per RFS
